PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT GADGETS

The best new gear for back to school.

xtatix freefone

THE SCOOP These lightweight headphones have a built-in FM radio and MP3 player that holds 300 songs—taking the term "hands-free" to a new level.

boost i835

THE SCOOP Boost Mobile, known for its catchy slogan ("Where you at?"), introduces this stylish purple model loaded with a walkie-talkie feature, perfect for tracking down your most hard-to-reach friends.

fretlight guitar

THE SCOOP This guitar by Optek has embedded LED lights that show you exactly where your fingers should be so that you can play the songs you love. Becoming a rock star has never been easier. —SARAH JENKS-DALY

BOOKS

BITTERSWEET SIXTEEN
CARRIE KARASYOV AND JILL KARGMAN
HARPERCOLLINS

Sophomore year at a ritzy Manhattan girls' school means one thing: blowout sweet-sixteens. But Laura feels stuck in the middle when the school's two queen bees—Sophie, "whose father screened his latest movie on a submarine," and Whitney, whose "family practically hosted the first Thanksgiving"—clash over party plans. Get ready for major drama. —JENNIFER CONRAD

THE GIRL I WANTED TO BE
SARAH GRACE McCANDLESS
SIMON & SCHUSTER

Fourteen-year-old Presley has always looked up to her mother's cool, beautiful little sister. But when Betsi moves in after a stint in rehab (and starts up a secret romance with Barry, Presley's cousin on her dad's side), Presley's idolization of her aunt shifts into something more complicated. McCandless brings a light touch to a story that's both funny and poignant. —L.W.

Clockwise from top right: HarperCollins Children's Books; Simon & Schuster; CHRISTOPHER COPPOLA (3).